

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00 CCO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-15 OPR-02 SY-10 A-01 OC-06 NIC-01 AID-20 SCS-03

SCA-01 DRC-01 PER-05 NEA-10 /209 W

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P R 111705Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 341

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

COMNAVTRACOM KENITRA

COMNAVCOMMSTA SIDI YAHIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 4659

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XI XF PFOR MO

SUBJECT: MOROCCAN SITREP ON SIXTH DAY OF MIDEAST WAR

1. LAST 24 HOURS IN MOROCCO DOMINATED BY ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SECOND FAR CONTINGENT ON ITS WAY TO MIDDLE EAST, THIS TIME TO EGYPT. BRIEF ADDRESS DELIVERED ON OCTOBER 9 BY KING TO OFFICERS WHO ARE LEADING THIS FORCE WAS BROADCAST HERE ON EVENING TV NEWS OCTOBER 10. KING EXPLAINED THAT HE HAD DECIDED TO KEEP TROOPS' DEPARTURE SECRET FOR A NUMBER OF HOURS FOR SECURITY REASONS. HE SAID HE ENVIED TROOPS ON THEIR MISSION AND NOTED THERE COULD BE NO BETTER DEATH THAN IN A HOLY WAR DURING RAMADAN. HE MENTIONED DEATHS OF MEMBERS OF FIRST FAR CONTINGENT AND SAID THAT THESE MEN, LIKE ANY OF SECOND CONTINGENT WHO MIGHT MEET DEATH, WOULD BE SAINTS AND MARTYRS IN THE OTHER WORLD. AT END OF SPEECH HE PRESENTED

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BATTLE STANDARD TO COLONEL MAJOR HATIMI WHO WILL COMMAND

CONTINGENT.

2. DAO HAS REPORT THAT OVER 1,000 MEMBERS OF SECOND CONTINGENT HAVE ALREADY LEFT MOROCCO. SECOND CONTINGENT WILL REPORTEDLY NUMBER BETWEEN 3,000 AND 4,000.

3. MEDIA CONTINUE PREOCCUPIED WITH WAR. (VICE PRESIDENT AGENEW'S RESIGNATION WAS RELEGATED TO PAGE 3 OF PRO-GOVERNMENT LE MATIN AND MAROC SOIR), AND ATTITUDE IS EUPHORIC. RHAPSODIC ESTIMATES OF ISRAELI MATERIEL LOSSES ARE FREQUENT AND ENTRY INTO FRAY OF FORCES FROM OTHER ARAB NATIONS IS NOTED PROMINENTLY. OCTOBER 10 EVENING TELEVISION NEWS WAS DEVOTED LARGELY TO LONG EDITORIALS READ BY NEWSCASTERS NOTING STRENGTH OF ARAB POSITION NOW AS COMPARED TO 1967. RADIO THROUGHOUT DAY OCTOBER 10 INTERLACED REGULAR PROGRAMMING WITH REPLAYS OF SPEECHES MADE AT TIME OF DESPATCH OF FIRST MOROCCAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCE AND WITH MARTIAL MUSIC. MAJOR THEME IS THAT ARABS HAVE AVENGED EARLIER HUMILIATIONS AND HAVE OVERCOME "ZIONIST-INSPIRED MYTH" THAT ISRAELIS INVINCIBLE AND ARABS "COWARDLY AND IGNORANT LOTHARIOS."

4. MEDIA HOSTILITY TO US HAS ALSO INCREASED. TV AND RADIO GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO REPORTS THAT USG WAS CONTEMPLATING NEW ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL, NOTING THAT REPORTS OF SOVIET ARMS DELIVERIES TO ARABS HAD EMANATED FROM WASHINGTON AND SAYING THAT THESE REPORTS MIGHT BE USED AS EXCUSE FOR RENEWED AMERICAN SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL. MUCH MORE EXTREME, THE OPPOSITION ISTIQLALI L'OPINION PUBLISHED BY FAR ITS MOST ANTI-AMERICAN EDITION ON OCTOBER 11. IT GAVE BANNER HEADLINE TREATMENT TO NORFOLK LEDGER STAR STORY REPORTING THAT ISRAELI BOEING 707 HAD LEFT VIRGINIA BEACH TRANSPORTING SIDEWINDER AND SPARROW MISSILES TO ISRAEL, AND SUGGESTED THAT US FOLLOW ADVICE AGAINST ADMITTING JEWS TO US THAT PAPER SAID BENJAMIN FRANKLIN GAVE IN 1789. MAROC SOIR ALSO PICKED UP LEDGER STAR ITEM IN STORY WHICH ALSO MENTIONED REPORTS THAT NEW SOVIET MATERIEL WAS ARRIVING IN ARAB COUNTRIES.

5. WHILE OUTWARD RAMADAN CALM REMAINS, WE SENSE GROWING EMOTIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN CONFLICT AND SOME EVIDENCE OF ACCOMPANYING

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ANTI-AMERICAN SENTIMENT. EMBOFF WHO WITNESSED OCTOBER 10 TV NEWSCAST IN COMPANY OF ORDINARILY APOLITICAL MOROCCANS WAS STRUCK BY INTENSITY OF THEIR INTEREST IN UNFOLDING EVENTS. ONE STUDENT CHARACTERIZED KING'S SPEECH TO OFFICERS AS "POIGNANT." THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL MINOR INCIDENTS OF HARASSMENT OF AMERICANS AND OF MOROCCAN JEWS WORKING AT THE EMBASSY.

6. COMMENT. MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WATCHING WAR CLOSELY AND US MOVES BEING FOLLOWED WITH GREAT ATTENTION. GOVERNMENT HAS SO FAR MAINTAINED OUTWARDLY OBJECTIVE ATTITUDE. HOWEVER, COMBINATION OF ARAB DEFEAT AND CHARGES THAT US HAD INTERVENED IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR COULD WELL CAUSE GOM HOSTILITY.
PARKER

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